

Minutes of the Regular Work Session of the
Board of Mayor and Aldermen, City of Kingsport, Tennessee
Monday, February 15, 2010, 4:30 PM
Council Room – City Hall

PRESENT:

Board of Mayor and Aldermen

Mayor Dennis R. Phillips

Alderman Valerie Joh

Vice-Mayor Benjamin K. Mallicote

Alderman Charles K. Marsh, Jr.

Alderman Larry A. Munsey

Alderman Tom C. Parham

Alderman Jantry Shupe

City Administration

John G. Campbell, City Manager

J. Michael Billingsley, City Attorney

James H. Demming, City Recorder

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 4:42 p.m., by Mayor Phillips.
2. **ROLL CALL:** By Deputy City Recorder Gilbert.
3. **WORK SESSION TICKLER.** Board members discussed the status of the improvements near Ridgefields. Public Works Director Ryan McReynolds said there is a preliminary design and he is working with the City Manager to find funding.

Alderman Marsh questioned why the King College medical school project was not included on the tickler and sees this as an issue which the BMA should review on a continuing basis. Mayor Phillips said that the City is currently waiting for King College president, Dr. Greg Jordan, to return to update this Board because nothing new has taken place since Dr. Jordan's last work session visit and he plans to report further when new developments take place. Mayor Phillips offered to request that Dr. Jordan attend the next work session to address Board concerns and questions.

On another subject, Alderman Marsh mentioned the gap in revenue and expense figures Kingsport is currently experiencing – approximately \$3.5 to \$4.5 million under budget/over expense, due somewhat to uncontrollable circumstances such as the expense of additional salt and extensive overtime for snow removal. He understands that City departments have been charged with reducing department budgets by 3.5%, which still appears to leave a gap of over \$2 million and believes it's time to discuss what it being done to address this gap and the effects on next year's budget. He emphasized that he is not sympathetic to raising taxes or fees at a time when citizens are reducing expenses to meet income and he recommended the City do the same.

Mayor Phillips mentioned that recently received December sales tax revenue figures were not good and he would like to spend a majority of the next work session addressing these shortfall issues.

Alderman Marsh also requested an update on the MeadowView Conference Center financial report.

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4. PAPERLESS POLICE REPORTS/FIRE HOUSE SOFTWARE PRESENTATION.

Kingsport Police Captain Jenny Castle presented information on the Visionair software implemented over the last year and the capabilities of the PDA's (personal digital assistant) associated with the software, such as field reporting, license checks, current citations, etc. Certain features allow officers to do instant checks on vehicles and weapons. She went over the financial expenditures, to date, of \$753,112, and future considerations that could be added, as needed and finances allow.

Patrolman Joe Bardinelli reported that the system's best features are the immediate access to information and ability to interface the reporting, which saves excessive duplication of paperwork.

Kingsport Fire Chief Dye explained that, with the KPD's implementation of Visionair, the Kingsport Fire Department (KFD) also had to update reporting and tracking software; hence, the installation of the Fire House Software.

Fireman James Everhart explained that the KFD required a medical component not available in Visionair software and needed to find a product within the projected budget of around \$55,000. He stated that the Fire House software handles both fire and EMS reporting at a cost of \$44,060 and provides information in real time.

5. PUBLIC ARTS PRESENTATION. Mr. Roy Harmon of the Public Art Committee commended Cultural Arts Director Bonnie Macdonald and assistant, Martha Beverly, for the outstanding job they do and, along with Ms. Macdonald, went through various art projects, including the art sculpture walk, and provided the status on art projects around the City. It was mentioned that the Public Art Committee will be accepting proposals for public art displays at the newly renovated V.O. Dobbins Community Center and a new project to showcase art in the new fire station.

6. REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS ON FEBRUARY 16, 2009 REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA. City Manager Campbell, members of staff and community members provided a summary or presentation for each item on the proposed agenda. Those items the Board discussed at greater length or which received specific questions or concerns included:

VI.B.2 Consideration of a Budget Ordinance Appropriating Funds from General Fund Balance to Street Maintenance to Cover Cost Overage Due to Winter Weather Events (AF: 59-2010). Public Works Director McReynolds went over information handed out to Board members that reflected figures spent on overtime and salt purchase from FY2005 to date. The information also included amounts budgeted for FY2010, spent to date and additional estimates as follows: budgeted for FY10 for salt - 1,900 tons, FY10 salt used, to date - 3,900 tons, and estimated additional for FY10 - 2,200 tons. Regarding overtime: budgeted for FY10 - \$51,000, amount paid to date - \$114,000, and additional amount estimated for FY10 - \$17,000.

He described the effect of the inclement weather on the local economy, including loss of governmental revenue, estimated to be around \$80,000 - \$160,000 sales tax per day for heavy snowfalls.

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VI.D.2 Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign All Applicable Documents to Enter into a Professional Service Agreement with Hazen and Sawyer for a Water System Master Plan (AF: 55-2010). Mr. McReynolds, along with Wastewater Treatment plant manager, Ms. Niki Ensor, provided the reasoning and financial practicality of entering into this agreement and the repercussions of not developing this master plan at this time.

BOARD COMMENT. Mayor Phillips announced appointments to the newly formed Lynn View Advisory Committee. He then mentioned the need for the Board to look closely at any future purchases made because of the dismal sales tax revenue figures and does not want to be put in a position of trimming City personnel.

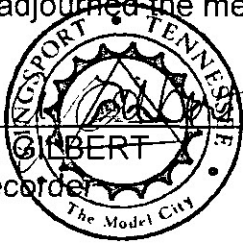
City Manager Campbell indicated that City staff has been working hard the last three to four months to maintain control of budget issues and, as a result, the City has 21 full-time positions and around 8 part-time positions on hold as part of that strategy.

Alderman Marsh cautioned that the economy is not likely to bounce back two years down the road and encouraged the City Manager and staff to consider eliminating, rather than freezing, positions and redeploying current talent into critical areas.

7. ADJOURN. Seeing no other matters presented for discussion at this work session, Mayor Phillips adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Elizabeth A. Gilbert

ELIZABETH A. GILBERT
Deputy City Recorder



Dennis R. Phillips

DENNIS R. PHILLIPS
Mayor